Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

erne
2F

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 23

RICE (Page 512) **HOPS** (Page 507)

BRAZIL NUTS (Page 508)

CONTENTS

Page

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

U.K. Arrangements for Cotton Buying, 1953-54 523

FATS, OILS AND OILSEEDS

Philippine Copra Situation, First Quarter 1953.......... 516
Thailand's Castor Bean Exports Up in 1952.............. 518
Ecuador Increases Oilseed Output....................... 518
British West African Palm Oil Producers' Prices Heavily Supported.................................... 519

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS.

1953 Brazil Nut Forecast Unchanged.................... 508

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

Record World Rice Crop Confirmed....................... 512
Argentine Grain Exports Beginning to Recover............ 510
Western Germany's Grain Outlook Generally Good.......... 519
Finland's Wheat, Barley Seedings Larger; Rye, Oats Smaller.. 520
Portugal's Grain Prospects Favorable.................... 521

HOPS

World's 1952 Hops Crop Down 8.5 Percent From Record 1951 Level....................................... 507

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

World Butter and Cheese Prices......................... 521

FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

JUNE 8, 1953

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ JUN 18 1953 ★
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

LATE NEWS

Final official estimate places Egypt's 1952-53 cotton crop at 2,048,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) including Karnak 887,000 bales, Menoufi 34,000, Giza 30 267,000, Giza 31 7,000, Ashmouni 756,000, Zagora 53,000, Others 1,000, and scarto 43,000. This estimate is 102,000 bales higher than the last previous estimate of this crop. Last year's crop of 1,666,000 bales included 643,000 bales of Karnak and Menoufi, 257,000 of Giza 30 and Giza 31, 717,000 of Ashmouni and Zagora, and 49,000 of scarto.

Preliminary estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture indicate a 1953 cotton acreage 22.4 percent less than last year's 2,042,000 acres or 1,585,000 acres. A yield per acre equal to last year's 482 pounds would result in a 1953-54 crop of slightly under 1,600,000 bales.

- - - - - - -

Picking of the 1952-53 cotton crop in South Brazil has continued at an accelerated rate, under generally favorable weather conditions, it was reported on May 15. The quality of the crop is holding up well and is still far above that of last year's crop at this date a year ago. The fifth and latest forecast of the Sao Paulo State Secretariat of Agriculture places the 1952-53 Paulista crop at 965,000 equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross, compared with 943,000 bales in its fourth forecast.

Production in the minor-producing States of South Brazil, for which no data are available, is estimated by this office at a total of 150,000 bales. Most recent estimates place the 1952-53 crop of North Brazil at 390,000 bales. This makes a preliminary total for all Brazil of approximately 1,500,000 bales compared with 1,950,000 in 1951-52.

- - - - - - -

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD'S 1952 HOPS CROP DOWN 8.5 PERCENT FROM RECORD 1951 LEVEL [1/]

Latest revised estimates indicate that the world's 1952 hops crop, harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in the late months of 1952 and in the Southern Hemisphere in the early months of 1953, amounted to approximately 141 million pounds compared with 154 million pounds in 1951, according to the Foreign Agricultural Service. This estimate, which represents the aggregate production in countries that before World War II accounted for more than 94 percent of the world's crop, indicates a reduction of 8.5 percent from the all-time record crop harvested last season.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF HOPS, AVERAGES 1934-38 and 1945-49, and ANNUAL 1950 to 1952 a/

Country	Annual Averages		1951	1952
	1934-38 b/	1945-49		
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Northern Hemisphere				
United States	38,977	52,131	63,239	61,263
Canada	1,612	2,147	1,942	2,007
United Kingdom	28,023	30,886	36,044	31,633
Czechoslovakia	c/ d/ 21,462	10,124	c/ 11,023	c/ 9,039
Germany e/	20,033	8,528	28,313	23,258
France	4,936	2,706	4,629	4,078
Belgium	2,659	1,515	2,169	1,635
Poland	3,907	f/	f/	f/
Yugoslavia	3,977	g/ 2,820	2,761	1,764
Other Europe h/	296	f/	f/	f/
U.S.S.R.	2,205	f/	f/	f/
Japan	144	246	1,010	1,931
Total areas reporting	128,231	111,102	151,130	136,608
Southern Hemisphere	1934-35 1938-39	1945-46 1949-50	1951-52	1952-53
Australia	2,304	2,391	i/ 2,059	i/ 3,360
New Zealand	875	796	873	900
Union of South Africa	f/	226	c/ 278	c/ 278
Argentina	f/	86	c/ 132	c/ 132
Total areas reporting	3,179	3,499	3,342	4,670
World total	131,410	114,601	154,472	141,278

a/ Northern Hemisphere crops harvested in the fall of the years indicated are combined with Southern Hemisphere crops harvested in the early months of the following year. b/ International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics, Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, 1947. c/ Unofficial estimate. d/ Average for 4 years. e/ Post ware estimate for Western Germany. f/ Not available. g/ 1949 only. h/ Includes Austria, Hungary, and Rumania. i/ Excludes Western Australia. j/ Average for 3 years.

[1/] A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Especially noteworthy, particularly from the point of view of the competition which American hops exporters must meet in foreign markets, is the large reduction in production in such surplus producing areas as Germany, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and the United Kingdom. As a result of the lower crops in those countries and a consequent reduction in their export availabilities, United States exports of hops during the 1952-53 season (September-August) are expected to exceed the total of 12,253,000 pounds exported during 1951-52 by a substantial margin.--By Leo J. Schaben, based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

1953 BRAZIL NUT FORECAST UNCHANGED

The 1953 preliminary forecast of the Brazil nut harvest remains at 33,000 short tons, unshelled basis, compared with 18,700 tons in 1951 and 33,000 tons in 1950. The present forecast exceeds the 10-year (1941-50) average of 19,900 tons by 66 percent and the 5-year (1946-50) average of 27,100 tons by 22 percent. It is now forecast that about 19,140 short tons will be collected in the Belem area, 13,090 tons in Manaus, 550 in Itacoatiara, and the balance about equally distributed between Santarem and Parintins.

There have been near-flood conditions since early April in the region between Manaus and Monte Alegre but low waters in the Tocantins. At present no material change in the total harvest is expected although some feel that it could be slightly higher before the season is over. Any increase which might take place will be the result of a good export market rather than a change in available nuts in the jungle. Santarem has recently become an export port for Brazil nuts since a firm has opened an office there and intends to make direct shipments abroad.

According to preliminary statistics, arrivals of unshelled nuts at Belem so far this season have totaled 9,400 short tons, 8,100 tons at Manaus, 300 tons at Itacoatiara and about 100 tons at Santarem or a total of about 17,900 tons compared with 10,700 tons a year ago. Stocks on hand unsold in the entire Amazon Basin in the hands of exporters and shellers on May 20 were estimated to be 4,400 short tons, unshelled basis. There were about 3,300 tons in the interior on the same date awaiting transportation.

The present season started off slowly due primarily to the uncertainty of the pending new Brazilian free exchange market legislation. The market for unshelled really got underway in March and has been relatively steady ever since. The opening prices of January/February about doubled in March and April but weakened slightly in May.

The export market was active in March and April when the United States, United Kingdom and Germany all bought heavily. It is now estimated that from January through mid-May a total of 13,200 short tons of unshelled and 92,000 cases of shelled were sold to foreign buyers.

BRAZIL NUTS: Estimated commercial production in Brazil, 1953 with comparisons

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Bolivia	Brazil	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average:			
1941-50	1,000	19,900	20,900
1946-50	100	27,100	27,200
Annual:			
1946	100	27,500	27,600
1947	100	30,400	30,500
1948	100	18,900	19,000
1949	200	35,200	35,400
1950	200	23,200	23,400
1951	200	33,000	33,200
1952 1/	200	18,700	18,900
1953 2/	200	33,000	33,200

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Preliminary forecast.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, results of office research, Trade and other information.

BRAZIL NUTS: United States imports (Crop year, September-August)

Year	Brazil	Other	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
		SHELLED	
Average:			
1941-42/1950-51	2,565	32	2,597
1946-47/1950-51	3,169	11	3,180
Annual:			
1946-47	3,260	12	3,272
1947-48	2,925	1/	2,925
1948-49	2,990	10	3,000
1949-50	4,198	2	4,200
1950-51	2,470	32	2,502
1951-52	3,069	78	3,147
1952-53 2/	1,176	138	1,314

Continued

		UNSHELLED	
Average:			
1941-42/1950-51	7,193	5	7,198
1946-47/1950-51	10,799	3	10,802
Annual:			
1946-47	11,739	0	11,739
1947-48	14,336	0	14,336
1948-49	12,462	0	12,462
1949-50	10,877	0	10,877
1950-51	4,579	14	4,593
1951-52	11,870	0	11,870
1952-53 2/	3,495	10	3,505

1/ Less than one-half ton. 2/ 7 months, September through March.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census.

It is estimated that United States buyers accounted for 6,050 short tons of unshelled and 80,000 cases of shelled and the balance were to the other countries. It is expected that United States buyers will purchase another 5,500 short tons of unshelled and 30,000 to 40,000 cases more of shelled before the season is over. The tonnage purchased by the United Kingdom buyers is not available but at present exporters hope to sell to them an additional 2,200 short tons of unshelled.

Prices paid by foreign buyers since the first week in May were off 1 to 2 cents per pound for unshelled and 2 to 3 cents for shelled with exporters resisting and hoping prices would firm after present contracts have been filled. The free exchange market law on exports of unshelled has been extended to September 30, 1953.

On the basis of reports from Brazil so far this season it appears United States imports this marketing season will be close to those of 1951-52 when a crop of similar size was harvested in Brazil.--By W. R. Schreiber.

ARGENTINE GRAIN EXPORTS BEGINNING TO RECOVER

Argentine grain exports are now beginning to show a recovery from the low levels of 1951-52. Total exports from December 1, 1952, the opening date of the 1952-53 marketing season for smallgrains to April 30, 1953, amounted to 735,000 long tons compared with 690,000 tons during the corresponding months of 1951-52. These 5-months totals, however, also include old crop corn, for which the new marketing season did not begin until April 1.

Argentine Grain Exports During Stated Periods

Month	Wheat	Rye	Corn	Oats	Barley	Total
	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons	Long tons
1951-52						
December	40,737	16,856	42,792	22,327	12,855	135,567
January	34,075	24,157	104,906	7,608	40,778	211,524
February	19,714	29,175	69,426	20,914	33,873	173,102
March	1,476	35,828	25,831	6,471	9,872	79,478
April	2,249	15,671	53,380	955	17,893	90,148
5-month Total	98,251	121,687	296,335	58,275	115,271	689,819
May	3,167	81	51,073	-	567	54,888
June	-	4,724	29,302	-	-	34,026
July	-	-	13,902	1,772	-	15,674
August	-	-	56,905	2,460	-	59,365
September	-	-	88,950	-	-	88,950
October	-	214	30,166	2,884	-	33,264
November	-	1,484	26,609	-	10,310	38,403
12-month Total	101,418	128,190	593,242	65,391	126,148	1,014,389
1952-53						
December	5,861	-	82,948	-	6,594	95,403
January	24,665	-	84,092	-	20,332	129,089
February	54,292	6,235	61,114	2,657	21,334	145,632
March	74,686	7,346	24,602	13,741	34,598	154,973
April	125,367	4,921	35,397	20,390	23,692	209,767
5.month Total	284,871	18,502	288,153	36,788	106,550	734,864

Excluding corn, total shipments during this 5-months period amounted to 447,000 tons compared with 394,000 tons during the corresponding 5-months a year ago. Wheat exports, which were at a complete standstill from June to the end of November, were resumed in December and by the end of March amounted to 285,000 tons compared with 98,000 tons in the same period a year earlier. Export of rye, oats, and barley, however continued to run considerably under those of the first 5 months of 1951-52.

Recent estimates indicate that Argentina's new season's export availabilities should amount to 3,900,000 tons of wheat, 800,000 tons of rye, 1,300,000 tons of corn, 400,000 tons of oats, and 500,000 tons of barley. Actual exports during the 1951-52 marketing season (December-November) for smallgrains and during the 1952-53 (April-March) marketing season for corn amounted to 101,000 tons of wheat, 128,000 tons of rye, 603,000 tons of corn, 65,000 tons of oats, and 126,000 tons of barley.

Thus far this season Argentina has not made as much headway as expected in marketing its wheat surplus. Export contracts thus far reported included 1,100,000 tons to Brazil, 300,000 tons to Italy, 250,000 tons to India, and 300,000 tons to Japan. These transactions leave around 2,000,000 tons of the estimated export availability still to be disposed of. It is expected that another 200,000 tons of wheat will be required by neighboring countries. Traders, however, are concerned regarding markets and prices.

Compared with these contracts, actual exports of wheat during the first 5 months (December-April) of the current marketing season, with those for the same months a year ago shown in parenthesis, were as follows: Peru, 3,811 (20,543); Brazil, 41,953 (58,324); Paraguay, 14,763 (17,613); Italy, 85,363 (none); France, none (1,771); India, 138,981 (none); total 284,871 (98,251) long tons.

RECORD WORLD RICE CROP CONFIRMED

World rice production in 1952-53 (August-July) was the largest on record 1/. The total rough rice crop is estimated at 354,100 million pounds, 4 percent larger than the previous postwar high of 342,000 million pounds in 1948-49, and 5 percent more than the 337,700 million pounds of 1951-52, according to the third estimate of the Foreign Agricultural Service. The 1948-49 production was about the same size as the largest world harvests before World War II.

In terms of milled rice (rough rice converted to terms of milled at 70 percent), world production in 1952-53 is estimated at 124 million short tons compared with 120 million tons in 1948-49, and 118 million tons in 1951-52.

Rice acreage was increased wherever this season's weather permitted throughout the areas of the world in which soils and climate are adaptable to the cultivation of the cereal. Moreover, weather in 1952-53 was favorable in many countries, in contrast with the previous 2 years when adverse weather restricted output.

By continent, the largest crop increases are in Asia, where 92 percent of the world's 1952-53 rice output was and is being harvested. Excluding China, that Continent's total outturn is estimated at 222 million pounds of rough rice (78 million short tons milled), a gain of 5 percent or 2.1 million tons milled over the preceding year. The principal increases in order of volume are noted in India, Japan, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines, Malaya, and Taiwan. Only in Thailand and Ceylon are crops smaller than those of a year earlier.

Total production in Asia's 3 major exporting countries - Burma, Thailand, and Indochina - is estimated at 40,000 million pounds of rough rice (14 million tons milled), or about the same as in 1951-52. The increase in the production of Burma was offset by a decline in Thailand, and Indochina's crop is believed to be about the same as a year earlier.

1/ A review of the 1952 world trade in rice, together with a discussion on world trade prospects for the current year, is scheduled for publication in Foreign Crops and Markets, June 22, 1953.

In Europe, production increased again in all countries where rice is grown, with the exception of Portugal. That Continent's total production in 1952 of 3,700 million pounds of rough rice (1.3 million tons milled) compares with 3,300 million pounds (1.2 million tons) in the preceding year, and an average of 2,400 million pounds (800,000 tons) before World War II. Italy, France, Greece, and Spain again harvested the largest crops on record. Portugal planted a record acreage in rice, but unfavorable weather reduced the production below that of last year.

The total harvest of the Western Hemisphere is estimated at 15,700 million pounds of rough rice (5.5 million tons milled), which is 4 percent of the 1952-53 world crop. Rice acreage planted in both North America and South America shows a further expansion from the acreage of a year earlier, the rice areas there having increased steadily since the early years of World War II, These continents now are planting more than double the prewar acreage in rice and are harvesting more than twice the volume prior to World War II.

In North America, favorable weather in most of the countries resulted in increases in per-acre yields. The largest gain in production was in the United States, where the acreage increased only slightly, and per-acre yields were the highest on record. The next largest increases in order of volume were in Cuba, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. Lack of rainfall during the planting season reduced Mexico's acreage planted in rice, and although larger yields were harvested than in the year before, production was smaller.

Rice acreages increased in all the countries of South America, with the exception of Peru, where floods at the time of planting prevented some land from being planted in rice. The total production of South America, however, is only slightly larger than last year, primarily because of a poor crop in Brazil. In several countries weather was beneficial for the production of good rice crops, particularly Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, and Uruguay. In Brazil, however, which produces about two-thirds of South America's crop, dry weather in the northeastern and central States reduced the yield per acre. Although Brazil's acreage was increased in 1952-53, the harvest is estimated at about the same as in 1951-52.

Drought in some areas of Africa reduced rice production below that of last year, though the rice acreage harvested in 1952-53 is believed to be about the same as a year earlier. Lack of water in Egypt during planting was responsible for a sharp drop in rice acreage, even below the reduced acreage of the preceding year. Per-acre yields in Egypt were below average, and that country harvested the smallest rice crop since 1937.

Growing conditions were favorable for the production of a good crop in Australia, and rice acreage and production exceeded that of a year earlier, but were not so large as in 1950-51.

RICE (rough): Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, averages 1935-36/39-40 and 1945-46/49-50, annual 1950-51 to 1952-53 1/

Continent and country	Acreage					Yield per acre					Production				
	Average					Average					Average				
	1935-36 to 1939-40	1945-46 to 1949-50	1950-51	1951-52 2/	1952-53 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1945-46 to 1949-50	1950-51	1951-52 2/	1952-53 2/	1935-36 to 1939-40	1945-46 to 1949-50	1950-51	1951-52 2/	1952-53 2/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
NORTH AMERICA															
Costa Rica	35	41	55	57	66	1,066	1,078	1,175	1,321	1,348	37.3	44.2	64.6	75.3	89.0
El Salvador	26	41	35	40	36	1,392	1,402	1,349	1,432	1,647	36.2	57.5	47.2	57.3	59.3
Mexico	96	190	262	257	203	1,904	1,731	1,203	1,278	1,488	182.8	328.9	315.3	328.5	302.0
Nicaragua	25	28	40	31	38	1,080	1,286	1,205	900	1,068	27.0	36.0	48.2	27.9	40.6
Panama	48	124	163	164	169	1,042	1,169	1,149	1,121	1,211	50.0	145.0	187.3	183.9	204.7
United States	1,004	1,690	1,620	1,967	1,972	2,234	2,099	2,388	2,328	2,468	2,243.4	3,547.9	3,868.9	4,579.7	4,866.0
Cuba	45	114	126	133	147	958	1,075	1,325	1,805	1,959	43.1	122.6	167.0	240.0	288.0
Dominican Republic	80	100	115	113	133	1,065	1,207	1,165	1,265	1,203	85.2	120.7	134.0	143.0	160.0
Total	1,423	2,488	2,585	2,937	2,951	-	-	-	-	-	2,812.6	4,581.6	5,028.8	5,851.5	6,249.0
EUROPE															
France	1	7	28	44	50	1,400	2,586	3,739	3,507	3,748	1.4	18.1	104.7	154.3	187.4
Greece	5	9	24	48	53	1,840	2,167	2,938	2,573	3,119	9.2	19.5	70.5	123.5	165.3
Italy	362	305	354	420	445	4,677	4,357	4,608	4,405	4,719	1,692.9	1,328.9	1,631.4	1,850.0	2,100.0
Portugal	47	53	67	77	82	3,253	3,013	3,982	4,045	3,524	152.9	159.7	266.8	311.5	289.0
Spain	110	129	143	151	159	4,336	4,358	4,615	4,305	4,560	477.0	562.2	660.0	650.0	725.0
Total countries shown	533	510	622	747	799	-	-	-	-	-	2,343.8	2,098.3	2,746.6	3,104.7	3,484.3
Other Europe	20	49	75	88	92	-	-	-	-	-	48.8	103.2	146.0	195.0	176.0
Total Europe	553	559	697	835	891	-	-	-	-	-	2,392.6	2,201.5	2,892.6	3,299.7	3,660.3
ASIA															
Iran	534	544	530	476	544	1,566	1,598	1,693	1,654	1,708	836.0	869.3	897.5	787.2	929.0
Iraq	392	643	521	520	525	1,283	993	1,058	763	1,048	503.0	638.4	551.2	396.8	550.0
Turkey	78	56	60	74	124	2,642	2,452	2,835	2,908	2,269	206.1	137.3	170.1	215.2	281.4
Burma	12,671	8,704	9,264	9,430	9,883	1,238	1,116	1,242	1,230	1,301	15,683.3	9,715.7	11,504.6	11,600.0	12,857.6
Ceylon	870	964	949	1,089	1,000	672	584	626	738	700	585.0	562.7	594.2	803.9	700.0
China	3/ 48,853	45,557	45,500	45,350	46,470	3/ 2,259	2,219	2,196	2,161	2,230	3/ 110,372.0	101,100.0	99,900.0	98,000.0	103,650.0
Manchuria	782	600	857	893	920	1,829	1,752	1,663	1,697	1,707	1,430.4	1,051.0	1,425.0	1,515.0	1,570.0
India	62,590	70,600	75,990	74,300	74,000	1,194	1,082	921	1,009	1,047	74,740.0	76,360.0	70,000.0	75,000.0	77,500.0
Indochina 4/	14,306	12,060	12,100	12,600	12,700	1,006	987	992	1,000	992	14,396.0	11,900.0	12,000.0	12,600.0	12,600.0
Indonesia:															
Java and Madura	9,794	8,922	9,958	10,181	10,200	1,442	1,325	1,438	1,454	1,471	14,126.0	11,823.0	14,324.2	14,800.2	15,000.0
Outer Islands	5,500	6,150	5,075	6,054	6,300	1,273	1,216	1,254	1,161	1,270	7,000.0	7,480.0	6,366.5	7,028.6	8,000.0
Japan	7,862	7,832	7,850	7,870	7,850	3,408	3,116	3,369	3,148	3,464	26,793.1	24,405.0	26,443.3	24,774.3	27,188.5
Malaya	745	831	865	793	800	1,634	1,367	1,820	1,529	1,875	1,217.1	1,136.0	1,574.5	1,212.7	1,500.0
Pakistan	5/ 18,706	21,601	22,401	22,481	23,015	5/ 1,301	1,245	1,230	1,159	1,191	5/ 24,339.8	26,891.9	27,559.8	26,046.4	27,400.0

ASIA (Continued)															
Philippine Republic	4,852	4,963	5,564	6,388	6,057	973	998	1,037	977	1,109	4,719.5	4,952.8	5,767.4	6,238.7	6,717.6
South Korea	6/ 3,838	2,676	2,691	2,262	2,280	6/ 2,293	2,211	2,403	2,493	2,807	6/ 8,802.0	5,916.4	6,467.6	5,640.0	6,400.0
Taiwan (Formosa)	1,607	1,638	1,898	1,925	1,940	2,393	1,829	2,213	2,338	2,397	3,845.1	2,996.7	4,200.0	4,500.0	4,650.0
Thailand	7,088	10,212	13,083	14,061	12,500	1,353	1,173	1,143	1,138	1,152	9,588.5	11,978.4	14,950.7	16,000.0	14,400.0
Total	201,950	206,656	217,339	218,687	219,225	-	-	-	-	-	319,855.3	303,333.7	308,281.3	310,293.0	325,981.9
SOUTH AMERICA															
Argentina	52	102	117	138	140	2,692	2,674	2,656	3,051	3,000	140.0	272.7	310.8	421.1	420.0
Brazil	2,323	4,290	4,861	4,700	4,900	1,287	1,423	1,443	1,383	1,327	2,989.1	6,105.7	7,015.2	6,500.0	6,500.0
British Guiana	70	97	114	120	133	2,289	2,343	2,175	2,250	2,143	160.2	227.3	248.0	270.0	285.0
Chile	13	79	58	62	70	3,515	2,578	1,531	2,845	2,643	45.7	203.7	88.8	176.4	185.0
Colombia	150	300	350	400	420	943	1,566	1,518	1,754	1,726	141.4	469.8	531.4	701.7	725.0
Ecuador	110	237	200	210	250	1,327	1,358	1,050	1,333	1,560	146.0	321.8	210.0	280.0	390.0
Paraguay	5	14	25	25	35	1,760	2,043	1,588	1,852	1,857	8.8	28.6	39.7	46.3	65.0
Peru	107	120	127	142	135	1,950	3,020	3,589	3,680	3,704	208.6	362.4	455.8	522.5	500.0
Surinam	37	41	44	47	49	2,081	2,490	2,555	2,706	2,435	77.0	102.1	112.4	127.2	119.3
Uruguay	13	29	31	35	39	2,992	2,855	2,616	2,903	3,121	38.9	82.8	81.1	101.6	121.7
Venezuela	2	28	40	65	70	1,150	1,200	1,375	1,385	1,257	2.3	33.6	55.0	90.0	88.0
Total	2,903	5,366	6,003	5,980	6,275	-	-	-	-	-	3,984.1	8,248.6	9,193.4	9,284.0	9,440.2
AFRICA															
Egypt	463	732	727	507	388	3,233	3,347	3,765	2,696	2,861	1,496.8	2,450.3	2,737.5	1,366.7	1,110.0
French Morocco	-	1	2	5	9	-	700	2,750	3,400	3,500	-	0.7	5.5	17.0	31.5
French West Africa	1,562	-	-	-	-	603	-	-	-	-	942.1	-	-	-	-
Madagascar	1,207	1,431	1,614	1,668	-	1,157	1,176	1,257	1,350	-	1,396.8	1,682.5	2,028.9	2,252.2	-
Sierra Leone	346	-	-	-	-	1,192	-	-	-	-	412.3	-	-	-	-
Total	4,395	7,189	7,611	7,575	7,577	-	-	-	-	-	4,957.6	7,743.5	8,893.1	7,854.9	7,521.9
OCEANIA															
Australia	23	31	37	32	34	4,143	4,042	4,703	4,000	4,771	95.3	125.3	174.0	128.0	162.2
Fiji	10	29	-	-	-	1,940	1,938	-	-	-	19.4	56.2	-	-	-
Total	40	95	107	103	105	-	-	-	-	-	121.7	217.2	267.0	232.0	267.2
World total	211,648	222,741	234,767	236,547	237,484	-	-	-	-	-	334,854.0	326,999.1	335,456.2	337,740.1	354,126.5

1/ Crops harvested in Northern Hemisphere countries during the latter part of the year, together with those harvested in Asia principally from November to May, are combined with crops harvested in Southern Hemisphere countries during the first part of the following year. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average 1931-37. 4/ The area formerly known as French Indochina is now comprised of the Kingdom of Laos, the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the State of Vietnam. 5/ Average 1936-37 to 1939-40. 6/ Korea. In the 1935-39 period, production in South Korea averaged about 6,750 million pounds annually.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

(Note: For previous world rice crop estimates of 1952-53, see "World Rice Crop Forecast at Record Level," (first estimate), and "World Rice Growers Produce Record Crop," (second estimate), Foreign Crops and Markets, November 10, 1952, and March 2, 1953.)

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service Reports.

PHILIPPINE COPRA SITUATION, FIRST QUARTER 1953

Philippine coconut production in terms of copra equivalent during the first quarter of 1953 is estimated at almost 172,700 long tons or 25 percent less than the 229,220 tons produced in the same period of 1952, according to Joseph L. Dougherty, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Manila.

PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC: Coconut production in copra equivalent, January - March 1953 with comparisons

(Long tons)

	1951	1952 1/	January-March	
			1952 1/	1953 1/
Exports:				
Copra	760,036	651,755	161,561	112,443
Coconut oil as copra 2/	122,408	126,132	32,283	15,775
Desiccated coconut as copra 3/	50,701	45,192	7,595	13,528
Total as copra	933,145	823,079	201,439	141,746
Domestic utilization:				
Coconut oil as copra 2/	103,175	111,111	27,778	30,952
Total production as copra 4/	1,036,320	934,190	229,217	172,698

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Computed at 63 percent oil extraction rate. 3/ Computed at 83 percent of copra equivalent. 4/ Excluding coconut utilized in the making of home-made oil and native culinary preparations.

Sources: Associated Steamship Lines for copra and coconut oil export data. Peter Paul (Philippine) Corporation for desiccated coconut export data. Trade representatives for data on domestic utilization.

Production was low throughout the quarter and shipments to the principal marketing center were light. Low production was manifested in a crop of unusually small nuts containing a thin meat content, attributed to the effects of a bad drought period in the Visayas and Mindanao several previous months.

Exports of copra totaled 112,443 tons or 30 percent less than in the comparable period of 1952, while coconut oil exports were 9,938 tons, less than one-half the January-March 1952 figure. In contrast, exports of desiccated coconut totaled 11,228 tons or almost double comparable 1952 shipments. The active demand for desiccated coconut in the United States was responsible for the increase.

The domestic copra market on January 2, 1953, was at 39.50 pesos per 100 kilograms resecada ($201 per long ton) compared with 27.00 pesos ($137) at the same time in 1952. The market was unsettled during the following weeks, reaching a high of 48.00 pesos ($244) on March 16 and declining slightly to 47.00 pesos ($239) at the end of March compared with 19.50 pesos ($99) at the same time in 1952.

The period from February 15 to March 16 witnessed one of the most rapid advances in the prices of copra and coconut oil since 1946. The trade expected that the market would decline and that this would occur rather quickly; meanwhile the reduction in inventories continued with a considerable amount of short selling. The price decline did not materialize but advanced rapidly instead due to good demand and limited supplies. The average domestic price for the first quarter 1953 was 42.00 pesos per 100 kilos resecada ($213 per long ton) compared with 23.90 pesos ($121) in 1952. One of the principal factors which prevented any significant decline in copra prices was low production.

Coconut oil export prices also showed a marked advance from mid-March until the end of the first quarter. Domestic prices averaged approximately .71 pesos per kilo (16 cents per pound) prior to March 15; they advanced to .85 pesos (19 cents) during the last 2 weeks of the quarter. Export prices averaged 16.75 cents per pound in 1953 compared with 11.5 cents in 1952. The high price level of coconut oil was one of the most noteworthy features of the market during this period. Oil prices were out of line with competitive fats and oils in the United States, causing consumers to reduce their stocks to low levels and purchase on a day-to-day basis.

Another development in the field of marketing included the shifting of Japanese copra purchases to Indonesia for the period April through September 1953. This shift is reported to be of a temporary nature due to Japan's favorable balance of trade with Indonesia. The Japanese will be able to conserve some dollar exchange by this move. Although Japanese copra purchases approximate only 2,000 tons per month, Japan is considered a stabilizing factor in the Philippine market.

The Philippine Copra Association has protested to the Special Technical and Economic Mission (STEM/Manila) concerning the possible elimination of the kadang-kadang disease research project which has been in progress for more than a year. It is understood that reconsideration is being given to the retention of this project by the Mutual Security Agency (MSA/Manila) in view of the importance of the copra industry to the Philippines.

The objectives of the coconut development project instituted by MSA include (1) determining the causes of kadang-kadang disease and developing methods of control; (2) establishing a Coconut Experiment Station at Tiaong, Quezon province, souther Luzon; (3) improving methods of disease and insect control; (4) improving copra quality and establishing standard copra export grades; and (5) utilizing coconut by-products in industry.

It is reported that representatives of the Philippine Coconut Planters' Association requested the Philippine National Bank to reassess the loan value of coconut trees from 1 peso to 3 pesos ($.50 to $1.50) for non-bearing trees and 2 pesos to 5 pesos ($1.00 to $2.50) for bearing trees. It is understood that the request was made on the basis of assisting farmers to increase production by the use of new methods made possible by better financial facilities. The matter apparently is being given careful consideration but no decision as far has been announced.

THAILAND'S CASTOR BEAN EXPORTS UP IN 1952

Thailand's castor bean exports in 1952 of 19,406 short tons represent an increase of 37 percent from shipments of 14,127 tons in 1951, according to the American Embassy, Bangkok. Thailand also exported 22,476 tons of peanuts, 7,835 tons of copra cake, 1,870 tons of peanut oil, and 16 tons of coconut oil last year. Japan received the bulk of the 1952 castor bean exports although 3,992 tons went to the United States. Almost one-half of the peanuts went to Malaya and most of the peanut oil to Hong Kong. Although no soybean exports for 1952 were reported, Suez Canal movement early last year showed a shipment of 11,320 tons from Kohsichang Island, Thailand, destination Rotterdam.

Production of copra and coconut oil in 1953 is not expected to fall below 1952 estimates of 16,500 and 9,900 tons, respectively. Peanut production in 1952 was reported at 80,360 tons and soybeans at 705,000 bushels. Peanut oil exports are expected to decline slightly as a result of a lessening demand in Hong Kong and Singapore.

The 1952 local consumption of coconut oil increased significantly to about 9,900 tons as a result of an increased demand for a lard substitute and the inability of local exporters to compete favorably with other oil producing countries. Increased consumption is reflected in the decline of coconut oil exports which dropped from 3,390 tons in 1951 to 16 tons in 1952. Only 25 percent of each mill's monthly output can be exported under prevailing export control regulations. Small quantities of oil were imported for soap and margarine manufacture during the seasonal shortages.

ECUADOR INCREASES OILSEED OUTPUT

Ecuadoran production of oilseeds and nuts in 1952 is estimated at roughly 24,000 short tons, or about one-fourth more than the 19,000-ton output in the preceding year, reports Joseph L. Martinez, Economic Officer, American Consulate General, Guayaquil. There were increases in production in nearly all crops; the most marked increase occurring in castor beans, which rose 28 percent from 1951 to 10,900 tons. Cottonseed production increased to 6,100 tons from 5,000 tons in 1951. Those crops for which harvested acreage data for 1952 are available were cotton--62,000 acres; castor bean--124,000; peanut--37,000 and sesame--12,000 acres.

Total production of fats and oils in Ecuador in 1952 is estimated at about 5,000 tons--3,000 tons of vegetable fats and oils and 2,000 tons of hog lard. Total production in 1951 was about 5,500 tons.

Imports of fats and oils in 1952 totaled about 3,350 tons valued at nearly U.S. $1 million. Hog lard--1,508 tons, coconut oil--896 tons, and olive oil--284 tons comprised respectively 45, 27 and 8 percent of the total imports. In 1952, Ecuador exported 6,700 tons of castor beans, nearly all to the United States, against 4,290 tons in 1951.

BRITISH WEST AFRICAN PALM OIL PRODUCERS' PRICES HEAVILY SUPPORTED

The announcement by the Nigeria Oil Palm Produce Marketing Board that the 1953 palm oil prices to Nigerian producers are heavily subsidized has attracted surprisingly little comment, according to the American Consulate General, Lagos. It has been announced that reserve funds of the Board are being used to maintain prices to local producers at levels as much as £24-10-0 per long ton ($61 per short ton) above the current world market price (for the so-called Special Grade oil). (See Foreign Crops and Markets of March 31, 1952, page 273, for story regarding bulk contract with the United Kingdom.)

Special Grade palm oil currently has a "world market value" (London price) of about £51 per ton ($128) while the Marketing Board is buying palm oil from local producers at £75-10-0 per ton ($189). The Board's 1953 producer price for Grade I "technical" oil is £58 per ton ($145) while the world market price is only £48 ($120). It is officially estimated that if world prices for palm oil remain at substantially their present levels for the remainder of 1953, this year's subsidies will cost the Board approximately £3 million ($8,400,000). There is no local expectation that palm oil prices will increase during the current year, while many observers feel that the increasing non-Nigerian supplies of high quality oil and the increasing use of synthetic detergents may push the price even lower later in the year.

WESTERN GERMANY'S GRAIN OUTLOOK GENERALLY GOOD

Present indications of the 1953 grain area in Western Germany point to about the same over-all acreage of breadgrains and slight increases in feedgrain. Reductions in winter wheat acreages appear to have followed unfavorable seeding weather but spring wheat acreage, on the basis of farmers' intentions to plant, will be much higher than normal to make up in large part for the shortage of fall-sown acreage. Both winter and spring rye are expected to exceed the 1952 acreage. Substantially larger acreages of winter and spring barley are forecast, while oats acreage appears somewhat smaller than a year ago.

In contrast with the unfavorable weather for fall seeding, conditions for spring seeding were exceptionally favorable. Supplies of seed grain were generally adequate except for spring wheat. The demand for spring wheat exceeded the available supply of usual certified seed and some substitution was necessary.

Data on fertilizer sales during the period July 1952 - March 1953 indicate that toal consumption will not be up to the level of last season. While sales of nitrogen and potash increased moderately, sales of superphosphates and other phosphates were smaller as a result of increased prices. The drop in phosphate sales is surprising since most soils are phosphoric acid deficient.

At latest report grain acreage plowed up because of winterkill was small. At the end of March the percentage of winter rye plowed up was 1.1 percent of the area seeded, compared with 2.5 percent last season. Winter barley losses were also smaller than those of a year ago. Wheat acreage plowed up, however, was estimated at 1.7 percent compared with 0.9 percent last season. Frost damage was comparatively low this season despite the more severe winter, because of good snow cover in most areas.

As a result of extensive fall rains and good snowfall, as well as rains during intermittent warmer periods of the winter, the country entered the spring cultivation period with sufficient top and subsoil moisture. However, dry, sunny weather during March and April with winds in some parts of the country caused rapid evaporation of topsoil moisture. This led to press reports of drought damage, which are now discounted as having been only local situations and not important in the country as a whole. Initial sprouting of spring seedings, however, was reported unsatisfactory in some areas though later rains have brought improvement.

FINLAND'S WHEAT, BARLEY SEEDINGS LARGER; RYE, OATS SMALLER

Increased wheat and barley acreage but smaller areas under rye and oats are indicated for Finland this season. A very marked drop in rye acreage was attributed to unfavorable weather for fall seeding. Fall rye normally accounts for virtually all of rye acreage and is the only fall-sown grain of significance. The decrease in rye acreage was partly responsible for the increase in wheat and barley acreage, though an increase in the price to be paid producers for wheat was also a factor in the increase for that grain.

Finland's self-sufficiency in bread grains has declined sharply, being estimated at 89 percent in 1938 and only 55 percent in 1952. In an effort to decrease the country's import requirements for breadgrains by some shift from feed grains to breadgrains, the Government's announced price for wheat of the 1953 crop was increased 7 percent above the 1952 level and the rye price was increased 10 percent. This would mean prices for the current season's first quality grain in United States equivalents would be $3.77 per bushel for wheat and $3.63 for rye, at the official rate of exhange.

Finland's domestic needs for the current season are more than covered by a trade agreement with the Soviet Union. Heavy shipments, arriving continuously are reportedly overtaxing all storage facilities and it is believed that a substantial part of the indigenous bread grain crop may be exported.

Fall-sown grains came through the winter well, with no serious winterkill reported, except some damage to rye in South Bothnia. Warm weather, beginning in early April, about 3 weeks earlier than normal, promises a long growing period for the crops. However, the exceptionally early melting of the protective snow cover and warm daytime temperatures encourage rapid growth, leaving new growth susceptible to damage from night frosts. Plowing for spring crops started in mid-April. The early beginning was a great advantage since a heavy backlog of plowing remained to be done, because of the adverse weather last fall. A shortage of seed grain and inadequate supplies of fertilizer are the only handicaps to present operations.

PORTUGAL'S GRAIN PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Prospects for the wheat crop in Portugal are good, with the outlook in mid-May for a harvest of about 23 million bushels. This would be about 13 percent above the 1952 outturn and would be the largest crop since 1934. The outlook for grains improved with the advent of needed rains in the second half of April. Lack of rain during late March and the first half of April had caused some concern. If the weather continues favorable, other early crops also appear likely to reach near-record levels. Prospects for corn are much less favorable, however, because of a low water table and shortage of water for irrigation.

If the wheat outturn is as large as now expected it would supply all but about 2.5 million bushels of estimated consumption needs. Portugal's quota under the International Wheat Agreement provides for purchase of about 5.7 million bushels of wheat for the current season and 6.5 million during 1953-54, under the terms of the proposed new agreement.

WORLD BUTTER AND CHEESE PRICES

The following table showing the wholesale price of butter and cheese at specified world markets is being published because of expressed interest for such information. Tentative plans are being made to publish current information of this type during subsequent months.

DAIRY PRODUCTS: Wholesale price at specified markets, 1950-53
(U. S. cents per pound)

BUTTER

Country, markets, and description	1950	1951	1952	1953					
				March		April		May	
				date	price	date	price	date	price
United Kingdom (London)									
National butter (bulk) 1/	20.5	27.7	31.4	6	36.4	3	36.4	8	36.4
Australia (Sydney)									
Choicest butter	-	-	-	1	41.8	1	41.8	1	41.8
Irish Republic (Dublin)									
Creamery butter (bulk)	-	-	-	-	-	1	55.0	5	55.0
Denmark (Copenhagen)	2/ 37.5	2/ 36.1	2/ 39.2	26	45.3	30	42.0	-	-
France (Paris)									
Charentes creamery butter	69.8	77.6	88.9	26	92.0	30	75.2	-	-
Germany (Kempten)									
Markenbutter	54.0	59.2	3/ 61.9	25	62.0	29	57.2	-	-
United States (New York)									
92-score creamery	62.3	69.9	73.0	20	66.9	24	65.8	-	-
Canada (Montreal)									
1st grade creamery 4/	52.5	60.8	63.4	21	63.3	25	59.0	-	-
Belgium (Hasselt)	74.2	77.8	81.0	26	82.7	30	73.4	-	-
CHEESE									
United Kingdom (London)									
Ration varieties 1/	12.5	12.8	23.6	6	25.0	3	25.0	8	25.0
Australia (Sydney)									
Choicest cheddar	-	-	-	1	25.7	1	25.7	1	25.6
Irish Republic (Dublin)	-	-	-	-	-	1	28.8	5	28.8
United States (Wisconsin)									
Cheddar	30.9	37.5	38.7	20	35.8	24	35.5	-	-
Netherlands (Leeuwarden)									
Full cream Gouda	23.9	24.6	26.8	20	23.1	24	22.9	-	-
Edam 40 percent	-	-	-	20	21.2	24	20.6	-	-
Canada (Montreal)									
Ontario white 5/	26.2	34.7	31.7	21	30.3	25	30.3	-	-

1/ Ministry of Food first-hand selling price. 2/ Accounting price, based on average returns from exports; excluding additional payment to producers from Oct. 26, 1951 to May 29, 1952. 3/ Estimated. 4/ Jobbing quotation. 5/ f.o.b. factory.

Source: Intelligence Bulletin, The Commonwealth Economic Committee.

U.K. ARRANGEMENTS FOR COTTON BUYING 1953-54

The British Raw Cotton Commission has offered a tentative plan (subject to recommendation by the Cotton Import Review Committee) to the trade for importation of cotton in the year beginning September 1, 1953. Under the plan, spinners will again have the option of importing their supplies through the Raw Cotton Commission or on private account but must make their choice known before July 11, 1953 (except buyers of Peruvian and Californian cotton may wait until September) and cannot reverse their decision after this date as was permitted last year.

Imports of all nondollar cotton will be permitted in unlimited quantities next season but imports of dollar cotton will be on a quota basis. In the current year (ending August 31) imports of nondollar, nonsterling cotton (mostly South American and Near Eastern) as well as dollar cotton were subject to restriction.

More detailed information on this subject will be published soon as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.